

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

Mayor :
ALDERMAN B. DENING

Deputy Mayor:
~~COUNCILLOR~~ W. S. VOSPER
~~ALDERMAN~~

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman W. J. C. PITTARD (Chairman)
Alderman B. DENING (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor J. W. HOLMES	Councillor W. J. ENGLISH
Councillor A. R. LAMB	Councillor S. J. RICKETTS
Councillor L. KIBBY	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Dr. MYLES MITCHELL (Chairman)
Councillor ^{W.S.} ENGLISH (Vice-Chairman)

THE MAYOR

Councillor J. R. PITHER	Councillor A. L. EWENS
Councillor F. SHORNEY	Councillor W. J. ENGLISH
Mrs. BELL	Mrs. WALTERS
Councillor T. MEREDITH	
<i>Ceased from July 5th, 1948</i>	

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :
P. POWER FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer :
M. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon 	QUENTIN DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S. (ENGLAND)
Senior Sanitary Inspector & Sewage & Destructor Works Manager	C. G. H. RICE, M.S.A.I., Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Food, A.Inst. S.P.
Sanitary Inspector 	G. E. ROADHOUSE, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I., Meat and other Foods, A.R.S.I.
Student Sanitary Inspector 	A. WALLIS, A.R., SAN. I.
Health Visitors 	E. SMITH D. ROY LANCE M. BULLOCK, resigned 30-11-48
Midwives 	D. HOLDEN W. HANCOCK D. SHARPE E. PRITCHARD
Clerk to M.O.H. 	DELSIE E. CANE

TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEOVIL BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population shows a net increase of 870, the Registrar General's figure for population being 23,290. The Birth Rate shows a considerable decline as compared with 1947, the figures being 16.4 and 20.38 respectively. The Crude Death Rate was 10.09 as compared with the 10.8 per 1,000 for England and Wales which is a record low figure. The Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 36.4 which is less than the previous year (37.19) but is relatively high compared with that of England and Wales, viz., 34 per 1,000. This again is a record low figure for England and Wales.

The Maternal Mortality Rate was *nil*.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

With effect from 5th July the responsibility for these services was transferred from the Yeovil Borough Council to the Somerset County Council. As stated in my previous report the services transferred were in a "healthy state" due to the keenness and interest taken in this work by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and there was considerable regret that the control of these services by the Borough Council should be lost. A channel for local interest has been provided by the formation of an Area Committee which meets at three-monthly intervals.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

The number of clinics held is as in the previous year, a weekly clinic being held at the Public Health Centre and Maternity Home respectively. The total number of patients examined was 144, the number of attendances being 1130. It will be noted that though there was an increase in the number of attendances there was a drop in the actual number of patients. This decrease is attributed to the provision for ante-natal and obstetrical care by the general practitioner under the National Health Service Act, 1948.

The number of patients attending for *post-natal examination* was 35, (24% of ante-natal patients) as compared with 36 (12% of ante-natal patients) for the previous year. These figures are low and efforts are made to impress on patients the importance of a medical examination 6—8 weeks following confinement.

BLOOD EXAMINATIONS

Commencing in October 1948 blood examinations of ante-natal patients was instituted. The main purpose of the examination is to determine the Rh group and blood group of the patient, and also to ascertain if the patient is anaemic or not. Information thus obtained may have considerable bearing on the well-being of the expected child and of the mother. 83 patients were examined up to 31st December 1948.

MATERNITY HOME.

The responsibility for the control and maintenance of the Maternity Home was transferred from the Yeovil Borough Council to the South Somerset Regional Hospital Board with effect from 5th July.

The number of admissions to the Maternity Home was 273 (218 for 1947). Prior to 5th July, 1948, the majority of patients admitted were from the Borough, since this date the admission to the Home has been extended so as to include the Yeovil Rural District. Admission to the Home is now free and is governed mainly for reasons of unsuitable home circumstances or for medical reasons. The demand for beds exceeds the available supply but it is hoped that this demand will be met by the projected new Maternity Home at Balidon House when it is available for use.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The rate was 36.4 as compared with 34 per 1,000 for England and Wales. This figure I consider is high, taking into consideration the social circumstances of the town. Analysis of the figures shows that 50% of the deaths occurred within the first 24 hours, 85% within the first seven days and only 7% approximately in the period 1—12 months. Arrangements are in hand to investigate the causes of death so that appropriate action to reduce this rate may be taken.

ACCOMMODATION

No improvement in the Clinic accommodation has been effected during the past year, and the comments made in my previous report still apply.

HOME HELPS

In my previous report I was doubtful as to the success of a centrally organised scheme for Home Helps and it is my pleasant duty to record that under the guidance of the local W.V.S. considerable success has been achieved. From the period 5.7.48 to date (11.6.49) Home Helps have been provided for 71 maternity cases, 39 other cases, also Home Helps are in attendance on 47 long term cases and have been booked for a further 30 maternity cases.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Two visits were made by the Mass Radiography Unit to Yeovil during the year, the second visit being partly due to the excellent response by the public availing themselves of the facilities provided. In all, a total of 4,260 persons were examined, 9 cases of active tuberculosis being discovered, 1 case requiring supervision and 32 cases of inactive tuberculosis. The purpose of these examinations is to discover cases of tuberculosis in the earliest stage in order that the patients may be cured as soon as possible, and also to prevent such cases unwittingly spreading infection amongst close contacts, such as their family or fellow work-people. It is obvious, therefore, that a single examination, though useful, is not enough and the aim is for all people to have a routine examination every 12 months; people are not examined to confirm that they have tuberculosis but to make sure that they are not suffering from the disease. It is hoped that those people who were examined in 1948 will be re-examined in 1949 together with those who have not yet personally availed themselves of the service.

HOUSING

There are approximately 1,000 applicants for Council house tenancies, of whom 350 are from families with children who are living in rooms. Against this demand for Council houses I regret that only 21 new Council houses were made available during 1948. In addition to the 21 houses mentioned there were 6 houses constructed by private enterprise and 8 war damaged houses that were re-conditioned, a combined total of 35 which compared with the 1,000 applicants is totally inadequate. In the course of official duties I am continually being made aware of the difficulties and worries with which these families have to contend, and the conditions of stress and strain under which the families have to exist may be a factor in the Infantile Mortality Rate being relatively high. It is a cause of repeated surprise and pleasure to observe in general how well the majority of parents dress and look after their children under these adverse conditions.

SEWAGE AND REFUSE WORKS

Minor improvements and maintenance work has been carried out at the above Works. Plans for the building of a new sewage works are making progress. Due to the age and condition of the present destructor and the amount of work it is required to do, it is inevitable that consideration should be given to a more efficient method of refuse disposal.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the continued help and support given me by the Council, and, in particular, to those Committees associated with the work of the Health Department, and also of the work carried out by the members of the staff. A special mention is due to Inspector Flack, N.S.P.C.C., who has always been extremely helpful in co-operating with the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Area	2,256 Acres
Rainfall	36.53 inches
Rainy Days	177
Population	23,290

Live Births—	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	190	172	362
Illegitimate	10	12	22
			<hr/> 384 <hr/>

Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	12
Birthrate per 1,000 population				..	..	16.4
Illegitimate births		..	..	..	..	6.07 of live births
Deaths		<i>Males</i>			<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
		122			113	235

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	10.09
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	36.4
Phthisis Death Rate, per 1,000	0.171
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	<i>Nil</i>

* A Rainy Day is defined as one during on which 0.1in. of rain or more falls during the 24 hours commencing 09.00 hrs. G.M.T.

VITAL STATISTICS

THE BIRTH RATE

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
18.1	19.7	21.7	19.4	19.5	20.3	16.4

The following tables show the causes of death and the sex distribution.

The primary cause of death was heart disease (76) with cancer second (37).

There were 98 deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH						1948	
						Males	Females
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	21	16
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Intercranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	..	..	17	18
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	32	44
Other Diseases of circulatory system	..	..	..	..	..	5	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
Other respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	..	5	1
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other maternal causes	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Premature Births	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Congenital causes	..	..	..	..	..	4	2
Suicide..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Road Traffic	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other violence	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
All other causes	..	..	..	..	..	10	11
TOTAL DEATHS	..	..	..	..	..	122	113

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

Total	..	..	14
Legitimate	..	..	14
Illegitimate	..	..	—

INFANT MORTALITY

CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	7
Congenital	..	..	..	..	2
Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	3
Marasmus	..	..	..	..	1
					14

AGE OF DEATH

<i>Under 24 hours</i>	<i>Under 1 week</i>	<i>1 Month or under</i>	<i>Under 1 Year</i>
7	12	13	14

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER 24 HOURS WERE :

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	5
Congenital causes	..	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	1

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER 1 WEEK :

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	1
Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital causes	..	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	2

CAUSES OF DEATH 1 MONTH OR UNDER :

Prematurity	1
-------------	----	----	----	----	---

CAUSES OF DEATH OVER 1 MONTH AND UNDER 1 YEAR :

Gastro Enteritis	1
------------------	----	----	----	---

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

DISEASE					<i>Cases Notified</i>
Malaria	..	..	..	..	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	3
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	8
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	17
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	90
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	—
Anthrax	..	..	..	..	—
Para Typhoid	..	..	..	..	—

The number of Yeovil Borough cases admitted to the South Petherton Isolation Hospital was as follows :

DISEASE	Cases admitted
Laryngeal Group	2
Cellulitis	1
Cervical Adenitis	2
Erysipelas	4
Pneumonia	4
Bi-lateral Otorrhoea	2
Impetigo	3
Whooping Cough and Pneumonia	2
Whooping Cough	2
Tetanus	1
Pemphigus	1
Lymphangitis	1
Scabies & Impetigo	1
Vaginitis	1
Scarlet Fever	2
Tonsillitis	16
Gastro-Enteritis	1
Healthy Babies	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Healthy Mothers	3
Post-Puerperal Debility	1

ADMITTED TO YEOVIL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL :

Puerperal Pyrexia —

DIPHTHERIA

During the year 391 children under 5 years of age were immunised against Diphtheria and in addition a further 73 received combined injections against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. 18 children over the age of 5 years received 1st injection against Diphtheria, 76 2nd injection and 127 children who had previously been immunised against Diphtheria received a re-inforcement dose.

TUBERCULOSIS .

	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>
Notification	26	5
Deaths	2	Nil
Death rate of respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population is .1		

SCABIES

During the year 36 cases in 20 families were known to have occurred.

The majority of these cases were treated at the Public Health Clinic.

When a child is discovered to have Scabies or if a doctor sends a patient to the Clinic for the treatment of Scabies, a letter is sent to the head of the family informing him or her that it is advisable that all members of the Household present themselves for examination. Generally, all contacts are seen before treatment of the original case is begun.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The number of beds in the Maternity Home continues to be inadequate for the population. The home is booked months ahead and a similar condition prevails in all the other maternity homes in the county.

The provision of new houses would solve some of the difficulty as more mothers would be able to have their confinements at home.

MATERNITY HOME

Number of cases admitted during the year	..	..	231
„ „ „ discharged during the year	..	..	235
„ „ „ in Maternity Home, 31.12.48	..		8
„ „ „ booked, 31.12.48	..	..	80

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

This was well attended during the year. There was again an increase in the number of women attending Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics, and more of them have taken advantage of the scheme whereby they can obtain dental treatment and dentures.

ANTE-NATAL :

†Total number of Expectant Mothers attending for 1st time	144
„ „ „ Ante-Natal attendances	.. .. 1130

POST-NATAL CLINIC :

Total number of Mothers attending Post-Natal 1st time	35
„ „ „ attendances made	42

DENTAL TREATMENT :

Number of Ante-Natal cases	..	..	..	188
„ „ Post-Natal cases	..	..	..	55
„ „ Children under 5 years	..	..	..	103

INFANT WELFARE :

Total number of Children attending	..	..	..	859
„ „ „ „ who attended first time	..			401
„ „ „ attendances made	..	..	..	5229

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS :

Infants :

Primary visits	..	..	..	..	..	248
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	..	..	431
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	724

P. POWER FOX,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SEWAGE AND DESTRUCTOR WORKS MANAGER for the Year 1948

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND SANITARY
COMMITTEE :

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report for the year 1948, and in so doing would record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee for their continued support and understanding, also to Mr. Roadhouse, the Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the other members of the staff for their help in carrying out the work of the Department during the year.

NUISANCES

COMPLAINTS

Included below is a list of the varied types of complaints received by the Department during the year. These do not include nuisances which are noted during the course of ordinary inspections.

General housing defects	..	..	84
Defective drainage, cesspools, etc.			32
Smoke, dust and effluvia nuisances			31
Rats and mice	..	..	24
Verminous premises	..	..	9
Kitchen waste bins	..	..	9
Overcrowding	..	..	8
Keeping of animals	..	..	7
Foodstuffs and food premises	..		5

HOUSING

OVERCROWDING

An approximate figure of 30 cases, based on applications for Council houses, are estimated to exist. Whilst it is impossible under present circumstances to carry out a survey to ascertain the true position, the number is considered to be much in excess of 30. Many houses still continue to be occupied by more than one family with resultant overcrowding.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

The general standard, as reported last year, is still far below the desired level. At the present moment attention is chiefly confined to getting necessary and essential repairs carried out, but in addition a commencement has been made in obtaining separate sanitary accommodation and indoor water supply to a number of houses where these amenities do not exist.

MEAT INSPECTION

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The Ministry of Food continue to occupy and use the premises in Queen Street, whilst the Bacon Factory at the Preston end of the town has carried on with pig killing on a small scale compared with former years.

Comparative figures of the killings since 1945 are included below. These, of course, include the rural areas supplied with meat from the Yeovil centre.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1945	2761	8167	604	2373	13905
1946	2461	9729	395	2144	14729
1947	1942	6024	217	2363	10546
1948	1590	5472	577	1982	9621

The following statement contains particulars of the number of carcasses killed and inspected during the year together with the amounts of meat condemned :

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	929	661	1982	5472	577
Number inspected	910	639	1900	5369	565
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	3	8	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	237	201	8	16	36
% of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26.26	31.31	.5	.4	8.84
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned	9	24	—	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	135	190	—	—	14
% of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis..	15.82	33.49	—	—	3.54

NOTE.—The above whole carcasses condemned include all offals.

MEAT OTHER THAN CARCASSES CONDEMNED

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	
BEEF	1	2	2	18	} T.B., Bruising, Abscesses, Pneumonia, etc.
MUTTON			2	7	
PORK		1	3	18	

OFFAL CONDEMNED

			<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>
Livers	..	..	.. 374	110	—	—
Part Livers	..	..	.. 625	—	—	—
Lungs	..	..	.. 277	12	—	—
Lungs and Hearts	..	..	.. 97	1	1	—
Heads and Tongues	..	..	.. 157	4	6	—
Plucks	..	..	.. —	3	1	1
Milts	..	..	.. 72	—	—	—
Skirts	..	..	.. 58	—	—	—
Tripes	..	..	.. 15	—	—	—
Guts	..	..	.. 15	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION

CANNED FOOD CONDEMNED

Meat	200 tins	} Damaged or unsound and unfit for human consumption
Milk—evaporated	..	..	..	397 tins
Vegetables and Soups	..	..	..	703 tins
Fish	..	..	..	509 tins
Jams	..	..	..	89 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	216 tins
Orange Juice	..	..	..	4 tins
Honey	..	..	..	5 tins
Total	2123 tins	

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Corned Mutton	..	..	42 lbs.
Vinegar..	..	..	20 bottles
Dehydrated Mutton	..	..	2½ lbs.
Crumpets	..	..	8 boxes
Potatoes	..	..	6 cwts.
Sugar	..	..	2¼ cwts.
Figs	..	..	1½ cwts.
Butter	..	..	23¼ lbs.
Bacon	..	..	13½ lbs.
Cooking Fats	..	..	9½ lbs.
Flour	..	..	21 lbs.
Sausages	..	..	12 lbs.
Pudding Mixtures	..	..	77 packets

Damaged or
unsound and
unfit for
human
consumption

NOTE.—Much of the above condemned has been dis-
posed of as pig food.

FISH CONDEMNED

Soft Roes	..	..	7 stone
Halibut	..	..	2 cwts.
Bloaters	..	..	37 lbs.
Kippers	..	..	12 stones
Cod Fillets	..	..	17 stones
Haddock	..	..	2 stones
Prawns	..	..	65 lbs.
Shrimps	..	..	2 bags

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following disinfections were carried out in connection with
the above.

Houses disinfected	..	..	71
Rooms sprayed or fumigated	..	..	230
Tuberculosis	..	..	64
Vermin	..	..	7
Scabies (baths)	..	..	16
Cancer	..	..	4
Steam disinfections	..	..	5
Library Books	..	..	38
Miscellaneous	..	..	4

VERMIN INFESTATION

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT 1919, AND INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

1. SEWERAGE.

During the year the sewerage system in the Borough was tested for rats. The following figures show the work carried out.

Areas test baited	..	..	..	13
Points baited	..	..	..	213
Part takes	..	..	..	20
Complete takes	..	..	..	11
Negative results (presumed clean)				182
Total number of visits made	..			643

2. PRIVATE PREMISES

During the year 24 complaints of rat infestation were received. Investigation showed 19 of these premises to be rat infested. The total number of visits made for inspection, and treatment was 156; the number of baits laid was 950, resulting in clearance of rats at 19 infested premises.

3. CORPORATION PREMISES

Routine weekly inspections and treatment are carried out at the Council Sewage and Destructor Works & Refuse Tip. This work is essential as unless these routine measures are carried out there would be considerable rat infestation.

The following statement shows the results of investigations arising from complaints regarding rats.

VISITS		Total	PREMISES		
<i>By Rodent Operator</i>	<i>Public Health Department Inspections</i>		<i>Found clear</i>	<i>Test Baited</i>	<i>Poison Baited</i>
128	28	156	5	19	19

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

The following are particulars from the Register.

(a) Total number of registered Dairy Farms	..	13
(b) Number of Retailers	..	21
(c) Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b)		9
(d) Number of licensed pasteurising plants	..	2

GRADED MILK PRODUCERS IN THE DISTRICT

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	3
Accredited	..	..	..	3
Pasteurised	..	..	..	2
Pasteurised (Retailer)		..	..	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATIONS OF
PREMISES AND PERSONS

for	(a)	Sale and Storage of Icecream	..	..	..	14
	(b)	Preparation of Preserved Foods		..	..	1

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926, PART 3

(c)	Registration as Cow Keeper	..	..	..	1
(d)	Purveyor of Milk	..	..	..	1

ICE CREAM

Number of premises registered at end of year

for	(1)	Manufacture, sale and storage	..	..	..	8
	(2)	Sale and storage only	..	..	..	41

MILK

Samples taken in the Borough by the Somerset County Council.
(Taken from reports received by the Public Health Department).

	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>
Number taken	81	38
Number passed	74	34
Number failed	7	4*

*Failed to pass a methylene blue test.

EMPTY CLEANSED MILK BOTTLES

<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Number passed</i>	<i>Number failed</i>
48	46	2

CHURN RINSINGS

<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Number passed</i>	<i>Number failed</i>
18	17	1

Samples taken by the Public Health Department :

ICE CREAM

<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Placed in Provisional Grades</i>			
	1.	2.	3.	4.
69	29	17	15	8

WATER

<i>Source</i>	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Main Supplies (cover all sources) ..	18	17	1*
Source Supplies (supplying mains)† ..	18	8	10

*Repeated within a week and found satisfactory

†Water from these sources is chlorinated before passing into main supply.

The water supply for the year has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity except for drought periods. Because of this insufficiency at times, negotiations are in progress with neighbouring authorities with a view to increasing the supply.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections made, together with the results, are given in the following tables :—

INSPECTIONS

Houses and other premises inspected under						
Housing and Public Health Acts	..	..				145
Number of inspections made for the purposes..						343
Visits re nuisances	..	..	..	..		251
Re-visits re nuisances	..	..	..	..		121
Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	208
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	89
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..		7
Stables	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rodents	..	..	..	..	..	74
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	7
Smoke Observation	..	..	..	..		14
Dust Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	7
Interviewing owners, builders, etc.	..	..				115
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	324

FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	952
Butcher's Shops	..	..	..	..	..	45
Cafes, Restaurants and food premises	..	..				38
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	50
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	20
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	12
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	21
Re Applications for Registration	..	..				37
Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	19
Other Premises	..	..	..	..	..	94

SAMPLES TAKEN

Water	..	..	..	..	..	52
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	69
Sewage	..	..	..	..	..	11
Swimming Bath's Water	..	..	..	..		4

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

GENERAL DEFECTS

Roofs renewed	..	..	..	..	..	8
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	39
Chimneys rebuilt or repaired	..	..	..	..		10
Gutterings repaired	..	..	..	..		7
Downspouts repaired	..	..	..	..		7

Walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	45
Walls rendered	..	..	..	..	..	14
Walls decorated	..	..	..	..	..	14
Windows renewed		..	..	..	..	7
Windows repaired	..	..	..	..	..	17
Windows painted	..	..	..	..	..	17
Ceilings renewed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	19
Ceilings whitened	..	..	..	..	..	22
Skirting boards repaired	..	..	..	..	..	8
Floors renewed	..	..	..	..	..	5
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	9
Food cupboards provided	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	40
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cooking ranges repaired	..	..	..	..	..	3
Yards paved..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Yards repaired	..	..	..	..	..	5
Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	71
Rooms disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	7
Bedding disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	5

DRAINAGE

Drainage relaid	..	..	..	..	..	22
Drainage repaired	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cesspool systems converted		..	..	..	..	4
Choked drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	35
W.C.s built	..	..	..	..	..	20
W.C.s repaired	..	..	..	..	..	11
Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	16
Gulleys provided	..	..	..	..	..	11
New W.C. pans provided	..	..	..	..	..	21
Baths fixed	..	..	..	..	..	6
Urinals fixed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Inspection chambers built		..	..	..	..	24
Interceptors fixed	..	..	..	..	..	4
C.I. covers provided	..	..	..	..	..	24

STATUTORY ACTION TAKEN UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

<i>Act and Section</i>	<i>Statutory notice served</i>	<i>Abated</i>	<i>In hand</i>
Public Health Act 1936, Section 93	3	3	—
Public Health Act 1936, Section 44	9	—	9
Public Health Water Act 1945, Section 30 ..	14	7	7

HOUSING ACT 1936

<i>Houses dealt with</i>	<i>Under- takings accepted</i>	<i>Still out- standing</i>	<i>Closing orders made</i>
Under Section 11	6	1	
Under Section 12			1 (part of hse)

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937

Visits re nuisances, sanitary accommodation, etc.	75
Inspections re Section 34 (Means of Escape in case of fire)	43

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS

SEWAGE WORKS

Early in 1948 further improvements were carried out to the Secondary Sedimentation Tanks in order to facilitate the removal of sludge from these Tanks. In June of that year alterations were made to the Separator whereby it now works continuously by gravitation. Towards the end of the year, arrangements were put in hand for the installation of an electric motor to drive the pump supplying the Percolator, again in order that this part of the plant shall work continuously.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR

As reported last year still only approximately half the town's refuse passes through the Destructor owing (1) to the age of the plant, and (2) the amount of dust and ash burnt with the refuse. The plant is kept going only by continuously being repaired and it is hoped during the course of the next year to incorporate a dust screen to extract the large percentage of dust and ash (often more than 50% during the winter months) and so ease the load and increase the amount of refuse that can be burnt.

SALVAGE RETURNS

The amounts of salvage materials collected and sold during the year 1948 are shown below together with the corresponding amounts for 1945, 1946 and 1947.

<i>Materials</i>	1945		1946		1947		1948	
	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£
Paper	136 $\frac{1}{4}$	871 $\frac{3}{4}$	144 $\frac{5}{8}$	877	150	1068 $\frac{1}{2}$	203	1585 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ferrous Metals ..	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{5}{8}$	37 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{3}{4}$	146
Non-ferrous do.	$\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	2	—	—
Rags	1	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	22	$\frac{3}{4}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bones	8	40 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{7}{8}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
Kitchen Waste ..	532 $\frac{1}{4}$	1224	433	1269 $\frac{1}{2}$	451 $\frac{1}{2}$	1354 $\frac{1}{2}$	501 $\frac{3}{4}$	1505 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bottles (doz.'s) ..	936	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1911	103 $\frac{3}{8}$	1931 $\frac{1}{4}$	135 $\frac{1}{4}$	5207	257
Misc. Sales ..	$\frac{5}{8}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	5	—	61 $\frac{3}{4}$
TOTALS ..	680 $\frac{3}{4}$	2172 $\frac{7}{8}$	612 $\frac{3}{4}$	2339 $\frac{1}{8}$	616 $\frac{1}{2}$	2625 $\frac{3}{8}$	811 $\frac{3}{4}$	3582 $\frac{1}{2}$

NOTE.—The disparity in values and in the quantities of certain salvage materials sold during the years under review is due to variations in the marketing values.

It is pleasing to note that a substantial increase took place during the year in the salvage paper returns, and this is, no doubt, due in part to the introduction of the separate bag containers for each house. Kitchen Waste has also shown an increase and some credit is certainly due to the general public for their co-operation in attaining the increased figures for these two salvage materials.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.

